RBI has reported that banks have been given freedom to charge interest in respect of their advances/loans for amounts exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs at the rates above the minimum rate of interest prescribed. However, banks have been advised to adopt objective and rational criteria for deciding the range of rates between the minimum lending rates fixed by RBI and the actual rates charged. Banks have also been asked to avoid excessively large spreads in rates and review the rates charged by them to borrowers whose limits are over Rs. 2 lakhs, and moderate them wherever they are excessively high.

Government of Maharashtra's suggestion for Moratorium on Dearness Allowance and Bonus to Central Government Employees

2321. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a Memorandum/Communication from the Government of Maharashtra suggesting inter-alia moratorium on the sanction of Additional Dearness Allowance instalment and bonus to the Central Government employees so as to make more resources available to the State Government;

(b) if so, what are the details of the main suggestions, observations and demands put forward by Government of Maharashtra for consideration of Central Government;

(c) whether the State Government have sought share in corporate tax, furnishing justification in support of the demand; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Transfer of Dirty Industries to less Developed Countries

2322. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the memo of the Chief Economist of the World Bank dated 12th December, 1991 on transfer of dirty industries to the less developed countries;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said memo; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (c) The Memorandum in question is an internal communication from the Chief Economist of the World Bank addressed to the Bank's staff members. It is an internal document which was neither circulated to the Board nor to the member-countries. The World Bank has clarified that the reference in the memorandum to shifting of pollution generating industries is meant to simulate discussion on the subject and is not in any way related to the Bank's thinking or policy. In view of this clarification, there was no need to pursue the matter further.

विदेश जाने वाले प्रतिनिधि मण्डलों को स्वीकृत विदेशी मुद्रा

2323. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जून, 1991 से सितम्बर, 1992 तक अनेक सरकारी प्रतिनिधि मण्डलों को व्यय करने हेतु विदेशी-मुद्रा स्वीकृत की गयी थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो विदेश जाने वाले इन प्रतिनिधिमण्डलों को कितनी विदेशी-मुद्रा स्वीकृत की गयी थी;

(ग) क्या विदेश जाने वाले गैर-सरकारी प्रतिनिधिमण्डलों को इस अवधि के दौरान विदेशी-मुद्रा दी गयी थी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ऐसे प्रतिनिधिमण्डल को कुल कितनी राशि दी गयी थी ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शान्ताराम पोटदुखे) : (क) से (घ) विदेश भेजे जाने के बारे में जारी स्वीकृतियों के आधार पर, सरकारी प्रतिनिधिमण्डल विदेशी मुद्रा या तो विदेशों में भारतीय दूतावासों से अथवा भारत में प्राधिकृत बैंकों से ले सकते हैं । गैर-सरकारी प्रतिनिधि मण्डलों के सदस्यों को भारत सरकार द्वारा विदेशी मुद्रा स्वीकृत नहीं की जाती है । वे अपनी हकदारी तथा भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार प्राधिकृत भारतीय बैंकों से विदेशी मुद्रा लेते हैं । सरकारी तथा गैर-सरकारी प्रतिनिधि मण्डलों को स्वीकृत विदेशी मुद्रा के आंकड़े केन्द्रीय तौर पर नहीं रखे जाते हैं ।

Adverse effect of scrapping the ABB LOCO Deal

2324. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the agreements finalised with ABB in boosting business and other manufacturing activities upto 1996, and what are the details thereof;

(b) what is the extent to which the above achievements are being affected by scrapping the ABB Railways loco deal; and

(c) what are the details of the potential investors from Europe whose investments in India would be adversely affected in case the loco deal with ABB is cancelled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Development assistance recovered per person

2325. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the official development assistance received per poor person in top ten developing countries and in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : The per capita net disbursement of official development assistance (ODA) from all sources to top ten developing countries having high per capita development assistance and India during 1990 is as given below :

Country	Per capita ODA (US $)
Israel	295.0
Jordan	282.5
Gabon	123.0
Botswana	118.2
Jamaica	115.7
Egypt	107.6
Mauritania	107.0
Senegal	99.9
Papua New Guinea	96.1
Congo	92.0
India	11.9

Proposal to levy Punjab tax to help financial crisis faced by Punjab

2326. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government are aware that Punjab State Government is facing acute financial crisis as a lot of money is spent on curbing the terrorist activity in the State;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to levy Punjab tax applicable in the whole of the country